

Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 SAB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 SCCT-01 AID-05

SR-02 ORM-01 /090 W

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R 151120Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3269

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

USMISSION GENEVA

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BEIRUT FOR BAGHDAD

KUWAIT FOR DOHA

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

1. JORDANIAN PRESS DECEMBER 14 GAVE FEATURE COVERAGE TO PRIME
MINISTER XAYD RIFAI INTERVIEW WITH LEBANESE WEEKLY AD DIYAR.
MAIN POINTS WERE:

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A) ISRAEL ASSERTION THAT ISRAEL IS READY TO NEGOTIATE WITH JORDAN

BUT NOT WITH THE PLO IS A DISTORTION, BECAUSE PALESTINIAN LAND TO BE LIBERATED AND UPON WHICH A PALESTINIAN STATE WOULD BE SET UP WILL GO THE THE PLO IN ITS CAPACITY AS THE RIGHTFUL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE.

B) ALL PROCEDURES WHICH GOJ HAS SO FAR ADOPTED ARE IN CONFORMITY WITH RABAT SUMMIT CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS. KING HUSSEIN CLARIFIED TO ARAB SUMMIT IN PRESENCE OF YASIR ARAFAT THAT THERE WERE SOME PROCEDURES WHICH JORDAN MUST ADOPT. PARLIAMENT WAS DISSOLVED BECAUSE HALF WERE PALESTINIANS AND IT WAS BECAUSE JORDAN DID NOT WISH TO CLAIM REPRESENTATION OF PALESTINIANS THAT IT ADOPTED THAT PROCEDURE.

C) AS PROMISED BY KING HUSSEIN, JORDAN WILL CONTINUE TO FULFILL OBLIGATIONS TO WEST BANK IN ALL OTHER FIELDS: FINANCIAL SUPPORT, LOANS TO MUNICIPALITIES, PROVISION OF (JORDANIAN) PASSPORTS, OPEN BRIDGES, TRAVEL, ETC. ALL THESE WILL CONTINUE AS USUAL UP TO TIME WHEN ARABS AND PLO DECIDE SERVICES ARE NO LONGER REQUIRED.

D) JORDAN WILL DO NOTHING TO JEOPARDIZE INTERESTS OF JORDANIAN AND PALESTINIAN PEOPLES. THERE WILL BE NO AMENDMENT TO NATIONALITY LAW; ANY CHANGES ARE MEANT ONLY TO GIVE MEANING TO RABAT RESOLUTIONS AND WILL NOT REFLECT ON CITIZENS IN JORDAN, ON THEIR EXISTENCE IN THE COUNTRY OR ON THEIR ACQUIRED RIGHTS.

E) JORDAN WILL BE FIRST TO EXTEND RECOGNITION TO A PALESTINIAN GOVERNMENT WHEN ONE IS FORMED; BUT JORDAN, BECAUSE OF ITS SPECIAL CONDITIONS, WOULD NOT BE THE PROPER OR NATURAL SITE FOR A GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE. JORDAN WILL ADJUST ITS CONDITIONS IN EAST BANK TO ANY NEW (PALESTINIAN) STATE BUT WILL CONTINUE TO CONSIDER WHOEVER REMAINS IN JORDAN (AMONG PALESTINIAN-BORN CITIZENS) AS JORDANIAN NATIONALS.

F) ON SUBJECT OF GENEVA CONFERENCE, PM RIFAI SAID RABAT ARAB SUMMIT TRANSFORMED JORDAN INTO A CONFRONTATION STATE BUT ONE WITHOUT ANY LAND OCCUPIED BY ISRAEL. HENCE, JORDAN HAS NO PARTICULAR ROLE AT THE GENEVA AS REGARDS DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS FOR ISRAEL'S WITHDRAWAL FROM WEST BANK.

G) JORDAN WILL TRY ITS BEST TO KEEP GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE PLO AND TO AVOID SIDE-BATTLES OR RECRIMINATIONS; BUT JORDAN FINDS THAT SOME PLO PERSONS ARE GIVING IMPRESSION OF PLO DIFFICULTIES WITH JORDANIAN REGIME. WE ONLY HOPE PLO WILL ASSEMBLE ITS RANKS AND TERMINATE SUCH BEHAVIOR AMONG ITS MEMBERS.

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2. COMMENT: PERHAPS MOST NOTEWORTHY ASPECT OF PM RIFAI'S INTERVIEW (GENERALLY A RESTATEMENT OF POST-RABAT GOJ POLICY) WAS POINTED REFERENCE TO PLO VERBAL ATTACKS ON JORDAN AND ASSERTION THAT GOJ'S RECENT MEASURES REDUCING PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION IN SENATE AND CABINET WERE NOT ONLY IN CONFORMITY WITH RABAT SUMMIT RESOLUTIONS BUT ALSO THAT KING HUSSEIN HAD MENTIONED NEED FOR GOVERNMENTAL MODIFICATIONS IN PRESENCE OF YASIR ARAFAT. PM RIFAI'S REMARKS ARE UNDOUBTEDLY INTENDED AS RESPONSE TO RECENT THREATS

AGAINST KING AND PLO CHARGES (MOST RECENTLY CARRIED IN AN NAHAR
REPORT OF PLO EXCOM STATEMENT IN DAMASCUS) THAT RECENT GOJ
GOVERNMENTAL CHANGES VIOLATED RABAT RESOLUTION. INTERVIEW ALSO
REAFFIRMED MODERATE POSITION OF GOJ REGARDING ITS DESIRE NOT
TO PRESS FOR CHANGES IN CURRENT SITUATION REGARDING JORDANIAN
NATIONALITY OF PALESTINIAN RESIDENTS. INCIDENTALLY, JORDANIANS
HAVE BEEN SPECULATING THAT DECEMBER 13 ATTACK ON BEIRUT PAPER
AD DIYAR WAS PLO JOB BECAUSE OF ITS UNHAPPINESS OVER PAPER'S
PUBLICATION OF RIFAI INTERVIEW.
PICKERING

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